United Nations A/BUR/58/SR.5

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

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General Committee

Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 20 May 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Hunte ..... (Saint Lucia)

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04-35745 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Brazil, France, Lesotho, Monaco, Portugal and the United Kingdom (A/58/237)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to the letter dated 30 April 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, France, Lesotho, Monaco, Portugal and the United Kingdom requesting the addition of an additional item entitled "International Year of Physics, 2005" (A/58/237).

2. **Mr. Florent** (France) said that both pure and applied physics had a growing impact on daily life; moreover, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had recently adopted a resolution proclaiming 2005 as the International Year of Physics. By adopting the draft resolution, the General Assembly would declare that year and would invite UNESCO to organize activities celebrating it in collaboration with physics societies and groups throughout the world, including in the developing countries. He proposed that it should be considered by the General Assembly in plenary session.

3. **Mr. Hamburger** (Netherlands) said that he did not question the importance of the science of physics or the need to support physicists, particularly in the developing world. However, he wondered why the General Assembly should declare 2005 the international year of physics since UNESCO had already done so; moreover, the addition of such an item might be inconsistent with the urgent need to rationalize the Assembly's agenda and, in particular, that of its plenary session.

4. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Monaco had asked to address the Committee under rule 43 of the rules of procedure regarding the proposal contained in document A/58/237.

5. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Borghini (Monaco) took a place at the Committee table.*

6. **Mr. Borghini** (Monaco) said that inclusion of the item in the agenda of the General Assembly would highlight the importance of the topic; moreover, the item would give rise to little discussion and thus would not hinder rationalization of the agenda.

7. **Mr. Hamburger** (Netherlands) said that his delegation was not alone in believing that the General Assembly's repeated proclamation of international years tended to lessen their value; however, he would not stand in the way of consensus on the proposal.

8. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Egypt had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Roshdy (Egypt) took a place at the Committee table.*

11. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt) suggested that the document should include a recommendation that the proposed agenda item should be considered by the General Assembly in plenary session and pointed out that there was a precedent for the declaration by the General Assembly of an international year previously proclaimed by UNESCO; through a similar procedure, 2002 had been declared the International Year for Cultural Heritage.

12. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include an item entitled "International Year of Physics, 2005" in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session and that it should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.*

13. *Mr. Borghini and Mr. Roshdy withdrew.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Secretary-General (A/58/238)

14. **The Chairman** drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General requesting the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Appointment of a member of the International Civil Service Commission" under agenda item 17 ("Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments") (A/58/238).

15. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session under item 17 and that it should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.*

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

United Nations A/BUR/58/SR.6

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
14 October 2004

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 8 September 2004, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Hunte ..... (Saint Lucia)
(President of the General Assembly)

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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly: report of the Secretary-General

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04-50094 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly: report of the Secretary-General (A/58/864)

1. **The Chairman** drew the attention of the Committee to the report of the Secretary-General on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, which had been circulated as document A/58/864. In paragraph 2 (c) of the annex to resolution 58/316, the General Assembly had decided that the Committee should make recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the placement of the agenda items for the fifty-ninth session under the headings contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. Furthermore, in paragraph 5 (d), the General Assembly had decided that the Committee should conduct a review of the proposed programme of work for the forthcoming session of the Assembly, on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, and submit recommendations on the matter to the forthcoming Assembly. The Committee would therefore first consider section II of the report of the Secretary-General, which contained the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth regular session of the Assembly, and then annex I to the report, which contained the draft programme of work of the plenary of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

2. The provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly was organized under the following headings corresponding to the priorities set out in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005: (i) Maintenance of international peace and security; (ii) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences; (iii) Development of Africa; (iv) Promotion of human rights; (v) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts; (vi) Promotion of justice and international law; (vii) Disarmament; (viii) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestation; and (ix) Organizational, administrative and other matters. Cross-cutting issues that fell under more than one heading had been placed under the heading "Organizational, administrative and other matters", as suggested during informal consultations on the matter. In the absence of any comments or recommendations on the placement of agenda items under those headings, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly submit section II of the report of the Secretary-General to the forthcoming Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 2 (c) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **The Chairman** drew the attention of the Committee to annex I of the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/864), and asked whether members wished to make any comments or recommendations.

5. **Mr. Hamburger** (Netherlands), referring to annex I of the report, noted that the draft programme of work of the plenary of the General Assembly envisaged a debate on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General, and a separate debate on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in conjunction with the report of the Economic and Social Council. He suggested that the two debates should be combined into one joint debate, in order to ensure a more coherent approach to the follow-up to the Millennium Summit, which was scheduled for the outset of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, in 2005. A joint debate would be more logical and productive, and might also avoid unnecessary duplication. Lastly, he noted that his view was shared by all countries of the European Union.

6. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly should submit annex I to the report of the Secretary-General, as orally revised, to the forthcoming Assembly.

7. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.